that secondhand smoke is a serious risk to non-smokers. EPA begins major groundwater cleanup in the San Fernando Valley, mission. EPA launches Brownfields Initiative to clean up, redevelop abandoned inner-city properties. EPA signs Bay-Delta Accord,

HEALTHY PLANET

Crossing borders for environmental protection

As we move toward a global economy, we are constantly reminded that environmental threats are global problems, requiring solutions that span oceans and continents. In EPA's Pacific Southwest Office we confront these problems in many ways: through our ambitious work along the Mexican Border; our efforts in Pacific Islands such as Guam and American Samoa; and working with environmental officials worldwide to provide cleaner air, land and water.

Breaking new ground with our neighbors to the South

A unique part of the world is the 2,000 mile-long border region between the United States and Mexico. The most rapidly growing part of North America, the border's population has grown from 1 million in 1960 to over 11.5 million today. At the current growth rate, 25 million people will live in the region by 2020.

EPA is working with the Mexican Government and U.S. state, tribal and local officials through the **Border XXI Program** to increase cooperation between our countries in addressing this astounding growth and its enormous impacts on a fragile environment. Through Border XXI, EPA's Pacific Southwest office has awarded tens of millions of dollars in grants and devoted countless hours of technical assistance to build sewage treatment plants, run air monitoring programs, manage solid and hazardous waste, and train environmental professionals.

Desert borderlands

The **Border XXI Air Work Group** recently completed its third year of monitoring, which showed harmful levels of ozone in Tijuana-Rosarito, and high levels of ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter in Mexicali. Officials are now studying strategies to reduce air pollution that for years has threatened public health in these areas. Efforts are underway to reduce motor vehicle emissions in Ambos Nogales, where a recently completed air study identified automobiles as the greatest health risk. These projects – and several others like them in border communities from Texas to Baja California – constitute the first-ever attempts at binational cooperation in combating air pollution along a shared U.S. border.

In December, EPA and Mexico's National Ecology Institute signed a major agreement committing both countries to share information on **existing and proposed waste sites** within 60 miles of the border. Never

funded by responsible parties. 1994: President Clinton orders government agencies to make environmental justice part of their begins process to resolve San Francisco Bay-Delta water issues. 1995: Bald Eagle upgraded from "endangered" to less-critical

before have residents of both nations had cross-border access to information about hazardous waste facilities – and the opportunity to affect future sitin decisions.

We are also working to handle waste from the estimated 3,300 maquiladoras operating in Mexico – foreign-owned assembly plants that use raw materials from the United States to manufacture products for export. In 1999, Mexico reaffirmed its policy of returning hazardous waste from maquiladoras to the United States to ensure that hazardous wastes generated by these companies are managed appropriately.

On both sides of the border, more than four million residents will be served by **16 water projects** under way or already constructed through investments of more than $400 million certified by the Border Environment Cooperation Commission. (See the *Clean Water* section for a description of a major project, the International Wastewater Treatment Plant.) Other ambitious sewage system upgrades are underway in Mexicali and Nogales.

A critical goal of all border activi - ties is to bring all affected parties together to share information and ideas. The U.S and Mexican governments achieved a major breakthrough last year by welcoming all border states and tribes as full partners in the Border XXI Program. EPA has also spearheaded efforts to include the public in these meetings.

In 1999, Mexican and U.S. officials worked together to monitor air emissions along the border and negotiated an unprecedented agreement to share information on current and future hazardous waste sites.

In 1997, EPA and Mexico's Secretary for the Environment created a comprehensive set of **environmental indicators** for the border that gauge the effectiveness of border programs and changes to the environment over time. The indicators, and related information, can be found at ***www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder***. EPA also operates an outreach office in San Diego to provide a forum for community input and communication, and help build local capacity through community grants.

Spanning the Pacific to protect island habitat

The reach of EPA's Pacific Southwest Office extends farther west than most people realize. As territories of the U.S., Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan) an American Samoa are subject t some U.S. environmental laws.

Other islands – the Republics of Palau and the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia – are independent nations to which we have treaty obligations.

EPA is working with local officials on **landfill closures in Guam and Saipan** that could signifi - cantly reduce public health threats and protect sensitive local ecosystems. For decades, Guamanians have brought garbage to the Ordot Dump, a huge, overflowing open landfill that catches fire regularly and endangers neighboring villages.

Roughly 120 miles to the north, Saipan residents have been dumping trash in the Puerto Rico Dump, which extends into a lagoon near a tourist center and national park. EPA staff are working with local officials on both islands to replace the old

"threatened" listing, reflecting birds' recovery since 1972 DDT ban. EPA requires incinerators to reduce toxic emissions by 90%. protect children. EPA wins $280 million from 4,000+ responsible parties for toxic cleanup at Operating Industries Inc. landfill

dumps with municipal landfills to reduce future threats to land and water quality.

EPA is also working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Division of Environmental Quality to speed the cleanup of toxic polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in Tanapag Village on Saipan, where local residents have expressed fear and frustration over delays in soil remediation.

The Republic of Palau is globally known for its marine resources, biodiversity and relatively pristine nature. On the island of Babeldoab, EPA, the Department of Interior, Army Corps of Engineers and the Republic of Palau are ensuring that construction of 53 miles of new paved road is done in an environmentally responsible manner. As mitigation for the project, the Republic of Palau has committed to establish two conservation areas encompassing 30,000 acres of mangrove, sea grass, patch coral, fringing reefs and upland habitats.

Pago Pago Harbor in American Samoa has seen dramatic improvements in water quality in the last decade, thanks to a partnership by EPA and the American Samoa EPA. The two agencies worked together to require the two harbor fish canning operations to relocate their discharge to the outer harbor, separate their waste streams and barge wastes to an ocean disposal site. The results have been impressive: water quality standards are now regularly met, and new coral is returning to the harbor. The two EPAs are now focusing on why harbor sediments remain contaminated with heavy metals and other pollutants.

Expanding our reach to help other countries

In the same way we have worked with Mexico and the Pacific Islands, EPA has collaborated with dozens of environmental programs in other parts of the world. Since 1990, EPA has conducted more than 70 environmental projects worldwide on issues such as air quality, controlling hazardous waste and municipal trash and performing environmental assessments.

Our Pacific Southwest office continues to draw the most international visitors of any EPA regional office to share program knowledge and technical experience, and staff have been invited abroad to assist countries around the world who are developing environmental programs, including Central and Eastern Europe, Central and South America and Asia and the Pacific Rim.

From 1996 through 1999, at the request of the Philippine government, a team of scientists from EPA's Pacific Southwest office developed a groundbreaking watershed management plan for the Butuanon River on the island of Cebu that now serves as a model throughout Southeast Asia.

EPA is working with local officials from the Republic of Palau to American Samoa to preserve unique island ecosystems that are currently threatened by pollution.

1996: Congress passes new Safe Drinking Water Act and Food Quality Protection Act, which includes pesticide limits designed to

Monterey Park, CA EPA organizes Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission to investigate air pollution's impact on canyon